

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
September 2, 2014
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham Presiding

Present: Council Member Roxanne M. Burns
Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.
Council Member Stephen A. Jennings
Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso
Mayor Graham

Also Present: Sharon Addison, City Manager
Robert J. Slye, City Attorney

City staff present: Ken Mix, Kurt Hauk, Brian Phelps, Margaret Waggoner, Michael Sligar, Michael Lumbis, Amy Pastuf, Justin Wood, Eugene Hayes, David Wurzburg, Police Chief Donoghue

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Authorizing Dissolution of Advantage Watertown and Creation of the City Council Citizens Advisory Board
- Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing Extension of Professional Services Agreement for Constructability of the Factory Street Reconstruction Project, PIN 775315, Barton & Loguidice
- Ordinance No. 1 - Amending City Municipal Code §293, Vehicles and Traffic
- Barben Green Subdivision Street Dedications Follow-up Report
- 10th Mountain Division Memorial
- Potential Funding for Sewall's Island
- Board and Commission Appointments
- Sales Tax Revenue – July 2014

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Meeting opened with a moment of silence and Mayor Graham asked that it be in memory of journalist Steven Sotloff.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of August 18, 2014 was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Roxanne M. Burns, seconded by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Graham interrupted the regular course of business to honor Erika Flint, Executive Director of Watertown Urban Mission on her selection for the Athena Award being presented later this week. He presented her with the Citizen's Award and a City Coin.

Mayor Graham interrupted the regular course of business to bid farewell to City Engineer Kurt Hauk who is departing after serving eight years with the City. Council thanked him for his level professionalism and hard work and wished him well in his new position at Fort Drum.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Graham interrupted the regular course of business to proclaim the month of September 2014 as National Recovery Month in Watertown and called upon the community to observe this month with compelling programs and events that support this year's observance.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received from Laurel Howland, 450 Flower Avenue East expressing support for a Dog Park in the City of Watertown.

Above communication was placed on file in the office of the City Clerk.

A claim was received from Jeff Roshia, 617 Lansing Street seeking reimbursement for damages to his car after hitting a pothole on Coffeen Street.

Above claims have been referred to the Board of Audit.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

S.G. Gates, 157 Dorsey Street addressed the chair concerning his proposal for a Dog Park in the City of Watertown. He said that he had a nice meeting with Council Member Jennings and Council Member Macaluso and thanked them for listening to his ideas. He asked that if anyone on Council is going to support this then he would like them to help get the word out. He indicated that Petco expressed support for this and he showed a flyer that will be displayed at their store. Regarding Alpine Fence, he explained that he will be meeting with them and they are still supportive.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Authorizing Dissolution of Advantage Watertown and Creation of the City Council Citizens Advisory Board

Introduced by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

WHEREAS the City Council of the city of Watertown is responsible for setting goals and objectives for City government, and

WHEREAS the City Council seeks to maximize community input into their decision-making process, and

WHEREAS an advisory group called Advantage Watertown has met regularly for 13 years and has generated useful ideas and feedback on public policy, and

WHEREAS City Council seeks to formalize its relationship to such a broad based group of business and community leaders and be able to use the forum as a sounding board for a range of issues, and

WHEREAS the current members of Advantage Watertown are:

P. J. Banazek	Brian Murray
John Bartow	Lynn Pietroski
Gary Beasley	Christine Powers
Michelle Capone	Donald Rutherford
Carolyn Fitzpatrick	Scott St. Joseph
Stephen Hunt	Peter Schmitt
John B. Johnson, Jr.	Jason White
Michael Miller	

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the current Advantage Watertown is dissolved and the same members, or their designee, are appointed to the City Council Citizens Advisory Board. The CAB will meet monthly or as needed. The group will have a membership ranging from 15 to 25 persons whom the City Council deems representative of the broad range of interests in the community. Members will be appointed by City Council for an indeterminate term. The CAB will choose a chairperson who will lead discussions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council Members, Mayor, City Manager, and Planning and Community Development Coordinator will serve as ex officio members in addition to the appointed membership.

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Graham stated that this resolution gives a fresh start on the idea of a Council Advisory Board that is authorized by this body. He explained that the members will be chosen by Council and the existing members will continue to participate. He noted that the City Manager, Planning Director, Mayor and Council Members will be ex officio members and announced that the next meeting will be Thursday, September 11th.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing Extension of Professional Services Agreement for Constructability of the Factory Street Reconstruction Project, PIN 775315, Barton & Loguidice

Introduced by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns

WHEREAS a project for the reconstruction of Factory Street, PIN 775315, D032467 (the "Project") is eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S. Code, as amended that calls for the apportionment of the cost of such program to be borne at the ratio of 80% Federal and 20% non-federal funds, and

WHEREAS on April 19, 2010 and October 18, 2010, the City Council adopted resolutions authorizing the Master Federal Aid Local Agreement and the Marchiselli Agreement, respectively which

provide \$752,000 and \$141,000 respectively for the costs of the Preliminary Engineering & Right-of-Way Incidentals, and

WHEREAS in support of this project, the City Council approved a contract with Barton & Loguidice for Constructability Oversight of the Factory Street Reconstruction project at a cost of \$39,600 on January 22, 2013, and

WHEREAS the project is now slated for construction to start in the spring of 2015,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves an extension of the Agreement between the City of Watertown and Barton & Loguidice, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, until March 31, 2015, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, Sharon Addison, is hereby authorized and directed to execute any documentation to affect this extension on behalf of the City of Watertown.
Seconded by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings and carried with all voting yea.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1 - Amending City Municipal Code §293, Vehicles and Traffic

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby amends the City Municipal Code § 293, Vehicles and Traffic by amending the following Section:

§ 293-51, Schedule III: School Speed Limits

Name of Street	Speed Limit (mph)	Location
Ohio Street	15	For that portion of Ohio Street commencing at a point 128 feet from its intersection with Eastern Boulevard and thence westerly a distance of 1320 feet

and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this amendment shall take effect as soon as it is published once in the official newspaper of the City of Watertown, or printed as the City Manager directs.

Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.

Motion for unanimous consent moved by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso, seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing ordinance and carried with all voting yea.

STAFF REPORTS

Barben Green Subdivision Street Dedications Follow-up Report

Mayor Graham said that he thinks this should become a City street.

Council Member Butler asked whether sidewalks are needed if this becomes a dedicated street because there will be an expense of moving the trees and fences. He also questioned the debris that is caused by the water flow from Sunset Ridge into the basin.

Kurt Hauk, City Engineer indicated that the debris flows with the water into the basin but then blocks it so that the water goes onto the road. He said that if the street is dedicated then everyone needs to realize that it is not going to be ideal and will not be to the “textbook” code. He explained that there are enough issues that a meeting needs to be held with the owner to work out a situation in which the street can be dedicated.

Council Member Butler said that some exceptions should be made for this and stressed that there needs to be a common sense solution which will not cost a lot of money but will alleviate some of the complaints.

Mr. Hauk commented that he hopes that everything can be sorted out through this meeting in order to bring a recommendation back to Council.

Council Member Burns commented that she would like to take the advice of the City Engineer to see if the issues can be better defined by meeting with the owner. She noted that there are very nice homes on that street which adds to the City’s tax base.

Mayor Graham mentioned the nonstandard street lights and asked if they belong to Niagara Mohawk.

Mr. Hauk replied that the ownership of the lights is uncertain but they are on the City’s rate schedule so the City is paying for the electricity.

Council agreed that the City Engineer should set up a meeting with the property owner.

10th Mountain Division Memorial

Colonel Michael Plummer introduced himself as well as Gill Pearsall, Chair and Keith Caughlin, member of North Country Honors the Mountain Committee and provided Council with an update on the proposed locations. He thanked Planner Michael Lumbis for his thorough work in proposing alternative sites but indicated that the original site still had the top vote from the committee. He explained the rating system and criteria used in determining the best site for the monument. He asked that Council approve moving forward with the original Thompson Park site so that a design packet can be put together.

Mayor Graham commented that the location is in some ways more important than the ultimate object because it should have the highest visibility year-round. He said that his initial concern with the original location was the ability for people to see it on a regular basis. Mentioning the Sailors and Soldiers Monument on Public Square, he said thousands of people see it every day.

Council Member Burns pointed out that the concept was just presented to Council recently and she thanked Mr. Lumbis and City staff for looking at other options. She said she assumed that visibility was an important criteria but Thompson Park is only a seasonal site. She noted that the Veterans Memorial Riverwalk or the Mayor Butler Pavilion would be more visible. She added that the pavilion offers shelter and restrooms to the public. She indicated that she is not prepared to make a decision on this tonight because it is only the second time that she has had information given to her on this. She said this is a fantastic idea and wants to pursue it but it is important that Council does not rush this decision.

Council Member Macaluso asked for more details on the monument.

Col. Plummer explained that if it goes into the original site, then it will be four granite slabs depicting the history of the 10th Mountain Division. He further explained that the size of the slabs and the recommendations on the design.

Council Member Macaluso said that she is partial to the Park Circle and asked if the monument would be something that people would stop and read.

Mayor Graham mentioned the site in the Park that housed the Vietnam War Plaque and nearby benches. He stated that the site should be picked and then the artist should design to that location. He noted that the committee locked into the one site early on but now that there is a broader audience there are differing opinions. He noted that the Veterans Memorial Riverwalk can be a little isolated and agreed that there are positives to the Mayor Butler Pavilion because of parking. He reviewed some of the benefits of the other sites listed in the report.

Council Member Jennings remarked that his favorite spot was Tower Square since there is nothing there and it would be a nice addition to this batch of land.

Mayor Graham mentioned that Tower Square is like a blank canvas.

Mike Lumbis, City Planner added that there is an opportunity to be very creative with the monument at that site. He did note that with any site, walkways that meet ADA requirements will be needed. He stated that Tower Square and the Ice Arena were both top on his list because they are the most heavily used facilities.

Council Member Butler commented that he liked Tower Square as well as the Main Flagpole in Thompson Park. He said that Veteran's Memorial Walkway would be nice and has tremendous potential but it needs cleaning up. He stated that he did like the original site because the walkways were already built. He pointed out that the Park Circle is not conducive to pedestrian traffic and that the Fairgrounds is the athletic mecca for the County so people are there for sporting events and not to walk the grounds like they are at the Thompson Park.

Mayor Graham stated that all of the sites will need infrastructure for lighting and sidewalks. He agreed that the Veterans Memorial Riverwalk needs to be cleaned up and the foliage needs trimming.

Council Member Burns noted that Council was not privy to the planning discussions and was coming in at the end of the project but Council is the body that will approve this. She advised that Council and the committee should have further discussions based on the comments made tonight.

Mayor Graham suggested that Mr. Lumbis should present the other sites to the committee and would also like to know what is the needed engineering and infrastructure for each site.

Council Member Burns indicated that she would like to know the names of the members of the committee.

Council concurred that the sites to be considered should be Tower Square, Mayor Butler Pavilion, the Main Flagpole at Thompson Park and the original site by the Bandstand at Thompson Park.

Potential Funding for Sewall's Island

Kenneth Mix, Planning Coordinator summarized that during the investigative phase a lot of hot spots with the worst contamination were cleaned up but there is still widespread lower level contamination throughout the site. He explained that the ERP program ran out of funds but now the DEC has some money budgeted to be used on various sites across NYS with DEC approved Record of Decisions. He asked if the Council is interested in applying for these funds and explained that the DEC will actually do the work.

Council Member Butler asked if this is the only eligible site for these funds.

Mr. Mix replied that there is a list of 27 sites across NYS and Sewall's Island is the only site eligible in Watertown.

Mayor Graham mentioned that it is really an eyesore and wondered if all the fencing is necessary.

Mr. Mix said that the fence is a barrier and no one can be on the site until the remediation work is done. Once that is completed, he said the fence can be removed. He discussed the condition of the site and the various concrete foundations.

Council agreed to submit an application.

Board and Commission Appointments

Council Member Jennings said that he would like to think of individuals that might serve in place of the vacancies.

Council Member Burns asked for a week to review the vacancies and positions that need to be filled.

In regards to the Empire Zone, Council Member Butler suggested that a resolution for the reappointment of the current members be prepared for an upcoming meeting. He indicated that this defunct board has no reason to meet but a small amount of administrative money is paid to a consultant for the annual reviews once a year. He advised that in the near future the 10 year extension will come to a close which will officially end the need for the Empire Zone Board. He indicated that the money will need to be distributed to the appropriate participants.

Mayor Graham asked for a report of the funds in this account, an update on the need for the Board and the process for distributing the money.

Sales Tax Revenue – July 2014

Council Member Butler noted that the sales tax numbers are bleak for the first month of the fiscal year so this needs to be watched.

Council discussed the projections and how sales tax is reconciled every three months.

NEW BUSINESS

Veterans Memorial Riverwalk

Mayor Graham asked for an update on the opening on this road. He also asked that the foliage along the walkway be cleaned up.

Council Member Butler agreed that this is a nice park but very overgrown and needs work. He added that he supports making this a one-way street. He mentioned that more could be done with this park in conjunction with the Fall Festival and suggested a 5K Run starting or ending from the Riverwalk.

Ms. Addison remarked that the road at the Veterans Memorial Riverwalk is a topic for an upcoming Work Session.

Caves

Mayor Graham told Council that he and the City Manager met with this group which has made 10 visits to the caves. He said that a lot of mapping has been done and that he has a copy of it if anyone wants to see it.

Ms. Addison commented that this work is still in progress and they are looking to ties to the City Center in order to investigate the recent sink hole.

Dog Park

Council Member Burns mentioned Mr. Gates' comments during Privilege of the Floor and was surprised to hear that two Council Members met with him because she thought that it was made very clear that this issue does not have Council support. She said that if there is renewed support then she will respect that but she wants to make sure that there is not any confusion on the part of Mr. Gates or the media. She stressed that to her knowledge, Council is not moving forward with this issue.

Mayor Graham said that Mr. Gates has done what any good advocate for a cause does and lobbied with his elected officials. At this point, he said that no one has proposed moving ahead with a Dog Park.

Council Member Jennings pointed out that Mr. Gates is a constituent and wanted to meet with him so he was happy to do so. He said that he appreciated the information that Mr. Gates gave him on the history of this project. He advised that Mr. Gates is looking for a donation of land and that he is not completely opposed to that because other cities have done this which enriches the community. Regarding the ongoing cost to the City and the liability, Council Member Jennings said there needs to be more information reviewed.

Council Member Butler said that his position has always been open-minded. He commented that it has some public support but needs broader support from Council because it has always been a fiscal issue.

Council Member Macaluso remarked that she met with Mr. Gates so that he could hear her concerns and to make sure that he knows what Council needs prior to considering a donation of land. She said that he has a lot of work ahead of him but his concern is that he does not want to do all the work if Council is not even considering it.

Main Flag Pole at Thompson Park

Council Member Butler mentioned that the flagpole needs painting and maintenance work.

Maggie's Deck

Mayor Graham questioned if the deck could be leased with the provision that Maggie's is responsible for maintenance and the repairs that are needed which they could fix for substantially less.

Attorney Slye informed Council that no matter who does the repairs, there will be the issue of prevailing wages. He added that this would be the same with any Dog Park on City property.

Mayor Graham said that unless the City is willing to commit \$33,000 to repairing the deck, then it will eventually need to be closed for perpetuity. He said that especially after reviewing sales tax numbers, he cannot see this body authorizing the spending of \$33,000 on this.

Motion was made by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns to move into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular individual.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:26 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by motion of Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham, seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Ann M. Saunders
City Clerk